



Congressman Tim Bishop

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BISHOP, LI DELEGATION, FIGHT TO RE-ENERGIZE CROSS SOUND CABLE AT HEARING

Washington— The Long Island Congressional Delegation today stepped up their fight to re-energize the Cross Sound Cable prior to an important hearing. Just over a week after Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham shut off the Cable, which had been operating since August 2003, the House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Energy and Air Quality held a hearing on the Cable. The Long Island delegation asked the Committee to pass HR 4349, a bill written by Congressman Tim Bishop to re-energize the Cable.

Bishop has led the fight to re-energize the Cable. He submitted testimony to the Subcommittee urging them to turn the line back on and pass his legislation.

"I am going to fight as hard as I can to re-energize the Cable," Bishop said. "And I know that the Long Island delegation is united in belief that this is the right thing for Long Island and it's the right thing for our entire region."

"This isn't a partisan effort, it's a New York effort," Congressman Peter King (R-Seaford) said at a press conference called by Bishop.

Bishop noted that the Cross Sound Cable is vital to Long Island as we head into the summer, citing estimates that ratepayers could pay an estimated \$30-38 million in additional costs without the Cable. He also pointed out that in the 10 months the Cable was in operation, it responded 18 times to reduce power grid disturbances caused by events such as lightning strikes and transformer failures. 12 of those events were in response to disturbances to the Connecticut grid.

"There are many distractions and there is a lot of noise," Bishop said. "But the bottom line is that the Cross Sound Cable does increase our regional energy reliability and security."

Bishop noted the irony of Connecticut officials who argue that the Cable causes environmental damage, yet many of those same officials are either silent or supportive of a plan to dump 20 million cubic yards of contaminated dredge waste into Long Island Sound. Bishop cited a June 2002 letter from Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner Arthur Rocque, who wrote, 'From an environmental perspective, this cable project *pales in comparison* to even maintenance dredging of the federal navigational channel in New Haven Harbor.'

"Even Connecticut's top environmental enforcement official says there is no damage to the environment," Bishop said. "Clearly in the face of this obstructionism from Connecticut, we need the federal government to step in and do the right thing."

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